

Mr David Osborn BSc, CMIOSH, SpDipEM
Chartered Safety Practitioner

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By email: [REDACTED]

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29th April 2021

Dear Mr Osborn,

Thank you for your letter of 21st April 2021 in response to my letter to you on 20th April. I note that you were not seeking a reply, but I hope you find my additional comments below are helpful:

HSE Research Report RR619

While I acknowledge your views on the applicability of findings from HSE Research Report ([RR619 Evaluating the protection afforded by surgical masks](#)) to the current pandemic, I can assure you that our response was developed following direct consultation with one of the authors of the report. It was therefore an accurate reflection of the reports' rationale and findings, and the scope of its applicability to matters related to COVID-19.

Risks to healthcare workers (HCW) and transmission evidence

HSE considers that many factors can contribute to nosocomial rate of COVID-19 infection among healthcare workers.

We are reviewing the recently published Scientific Advisory Group on Emergencies (SAGE) report [S1169 Facemasks for health care workers](#), and are considering if and how it may impact future IPC guidance for patient care in specific situations. We will also continue to monitor and take cognisance of this and any other future developments and analyses in relation to this matter.

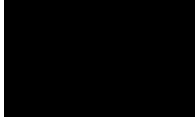
HSE enforcement

I reiterate that we will continue to advise and enforce on the control of COVID-19 risk in line with the current Four Nations IPC guidance for health and care settings.

For the avoidance of doubt, should that guidance change, HSE will monitor and ensure our actions are amended to reflect any updates in guidance.

Thank you once again for contacting HSE.

Yours sincerely,



Sarah Albon

Chief Executive